

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/550,954

Examiner

Nancy Bitar

Applicant(s)

KUROKAWA, NATSUKI

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment 09/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/1/2007</u> . |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>4/11/07, 9/28/05</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Fogarty on 10/1/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 11(Amended) The target travel direction detecting method according to ~~any~~ claim 4 comprising; a space-time image creating step of creating a space time image where images in a predetermined area extracted from each of the travel-direction-extracted images created in the travel-direction extracted image creating step are arranged in chronological order.

2. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. While Kondo et al (US 20020076106) teaches the object extracting unit 3 comprises a boundary detecting section 31, a cut-out section 32, a result processing section 33, etc. The boundary detecting section 31 detects a boundary portion of the target frame image which is stored in the target frame buffer 21, and generates a plurality of types of boundary images which are formed of binary data indicating the boundary portion and a

portion excluding the boundary portion. The cur-out section 32 refers to the three boundary images which are generated by the boundary detecting section 31, and cuts out an object area from the target frame which is stored in the target frame buffer 21. Makihito et al (JP2001-118182) teaches area extraction part 3 extracts luminance value change area based on a difference on a luminance value between an input picture and a background picture. A vote part 12 votes the weights of the respective points of a vote pattern to a parameter space in accordance with pixels for the respective pixels in the luminance change area based on Hough transformation. A maximum point detection part 13 detects the maximum point of a vote frequency in the parameter space as a mobile object candidate point after voting. A model matching part 15 calculates a matching degree between the luminance value change areas around the mobile object candidate points and mobile object models and judges the presence or absence of a mobile object. A mobile object tracking part 5 tracks the detected mobile objects with time. Neither Kondo et al nor Makihito et al teaches the travel-direction-extracted image creating step of plotting a pixel value set to accordance with the travel direction of the target at the same coordinate position as each of the pixel positions detected in the value-matching pixel detecting step to respectively create a plurality of travel-direction-extracted images and obtain, per pixel, the mean value of the plurality of travel-direction-extracted images in order to create a complex travel-direction-extracted image thus, detecting the travel direction of a target by using a small amount of information. The Examiner finds no reason or motivation to combine the above references in an obviousness rejection thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy Bitar whose telephone number is 571-270-1041. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30a.m. to 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samir Ahmed can be reached on 571-272-7413. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nancy Bitar


SAMI AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER

10/1/2007